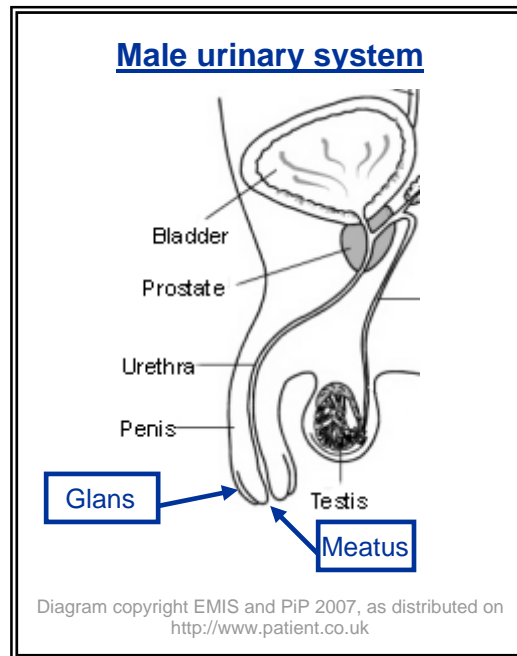


Hypospadias

What is hypospadias?

Hypospadias is one of the most common birth defects involving the male genitalia, occurring in 1 out of every 125 boys. Hypospadias occurs when the **urethra** (urine tube) is short and does not come to the **glans** (end of the penis). The **meatus** (opening through which the child urinates) may be located anywhere along the underside of the shaft of the penis or the scrotum (the sac of tissue containing the testes).



What causes hypospadias?

Currently, the exact cause of hypospadias is unknown. Normally, as a baby is developing, certain hormones are required to ensure proper development of the genitalia. Hypospadias may occur if the baby is a boy and if one or more of these hormones are missing or not working correctly.

Hypospadias can be an **isolated** birth defect (no other birth defects are found); it can also be associated with other birth defects. Sometimes, multiple family members may be born with hypospadias.

How is hypospadias treated?

Most cases of hypospadias are minor and can be corrected by a single surgery within the first year of life. Some cases of hypospadias are more severe and can cause problems with urination and sexual function. Surgery is necessary to allow normal urination, correct any abnormalities of the penis, and ensure normal sexual function. Your child's doctor(s) will discuss appropriate treatment options with you.

For more information

MayoClinic.com - <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/hypospadias/DS00884>

MedlinePlus Medical Encyclopedia - <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003000.htm>

Source: MedlinePlus Medical Encyclopedia